

Columbia Flier

Watson: Environmental impact study needed on possible CSX sites

Lindsey McPherson, April 27, 2011

Ellicott City Democrat Courtney Watson wants the County Council to pass a resolution directing a county board to study the environmental impact a CSX intermodal facility would have at two Howard sites where the railroad company is proposing to relocate the facility.

"We want them to look at all of the possible issues," Watson said.

The facility, currently located at the Port of Baltimore, is where cargo containers are transferred from trucks to trains.

CSX is partnering with the Maryland Department of Transportation to relocate the facility to a site further south on its main line, the Camden line, where it can double stack containers, something it cannot do now because of the low clearance of the Howard Street Tunnel.

The four sites under consideration are in Elkridge, north of Hanover Road near Race Road; in Jessup, north of Montevideo Road; in Anne Arundel County, south of Route 175 just across the Howard line; and in Prince George's County.

The council will officially introduce Watson's resolution, which is co-sponsored by Columbia Democrats Calvin Ball and Jennifer Terrasa, at its legislative session on Monday.

The resolution instructs the county's Environmental Sustainability Board, with assistance from county government officials, to review the possible environmental impacts the facility would create if it were located in Elkridge or Jessup.

"The report should delineate possible environmental impacts the county should be aware of, and make recommendations as to how the county can best protect the environment should the intermodal facility be located in Howard County," the resolution reads.

The resolution requests that the report be submitted to the council by Sept. 1.